

National Records of Scotland (NRS) Postcode Based Geography Extract 2013/1 Release: Important information

April 2013

Dear Customer,

Please find enclosed the latest version of our Postcode Index and digital postcode boundary dataset. The data is based on the January 2013 release of Royal Mail's Postal Address File (PAF).

The Postcode Index links current and terminated postcodes to administrative, health, statistical and other areas. It also contains the Gridlink®/NRS 1 metre grid reference.

This version contains:

- 183,853 live and deleted small user records
- 48,430 live and deleted large user records of which 27,804 are PO Boxes and 1,454 unmapped postcodes.

The number of outstanding postcodes without a digital boundary is 2:

HS6 5AJ Eilean Siar DD2 3BW Dundee City

What's new in 2013 1

1. New boundaries

- 1.1 3 fields have been updated to reflect the latest version of boundaries:
 - 2012 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)
 - 2011-12 Scottish Government Urban Rural classification 6 fold
 - 2011-12 Scottish Government Urban Rural classification 8 fold
- 1.2 1 new field has been added:
 - 2012 Community Health Partnership
- 1.3 We have introduced a new digital spatial file to the Extract:
 - Scotland grid references
 Format: Shapefile of MapInfo

2. Community Health Partnerships (CHP)

2.1 The Postcode Index contains all versions of CHP: CHP, CHP2011 and CHP 2012.

3. All Scotland product

3.1 In the 2012_2 Bulletin we notified customers that from 2013_1 we plan to create a single all Scotland product comprising:

Scotland boundaries
 Format: Shapefile or MapInfo

Scotland PC Index and Metadata
 Format: Access or Text

Scotland PGDB

Data Dictionary, License and Bulletin

- A technical 'How to' guide: a simple guide informing customers how to select specific records from the Boundaries and Postcode Index and a 'User guide' providing general information about the data.
- 3.2 The change reduces the administrative burden on NRS and allows us to continue to supply postcode data largely free of charge for non commercial users.
- 3.3 Our planned 'How to' guide to help users extract specific data is not ready but our geography customer services team will be on hand to provide help and advice. Please contact us if you require assistance.

4. Cut and Full versions of the Postcode Index

- 4.1 Two versions of the NRS Extract have been produced, a 'cut' version and a 'full' version. The 'cut' version excludes the following Royal Mail (RM) information: Delivery Point Count (DPC), Delivery Point Count Non Residential (DPCNR) and Household Count (HC). The 'full' version of the Extract includes that information. By removing RM information the amount we pay to RM in royalties is reduced.
- 4.2 All customers will receive the 'cut' version unless the 'full' version has been specifically requested. The full version will be available to customers on request. Customers receiving the full version will have 'full' stamped across the top of this Bulletin. The cost of the full version is £40 per user, the cost covers both extracts and charging is applied at 2nd extract.

5. Improvements - Postcodes without a grid reference

5.1 There are 278 postcodes without a grid reference and digital boundary. These are new postcodes or postcodes deleted before the digital boundary ever drawn. NRS has assigned higher area values for deleted postcodes where possible.

6. Future supply arrangements

6.1 Customers can now download the Cut version of the Extract directly from the 'National Records of Scotland (NRS) Postcode Extract' page on the NRS website. Customers wishing to continue receiving data on CD can do so if they prefer.

7. 2011 Census

- 7.1 A range of census geography products will be produced and are likely to include:
 - 2011 1 census version of the Postcode Index.
 - 2011 Output Area to higher areas index and look ups.
 - A file linking 1991OAs: 2001OAs: 2011OAs.
 - 2011 OA boundaries.
 - · Boundaries for the census geographies.
 - Metadata and supporting information.
- 7.2 A census geography prospectus will be published soon with details on availability.

8. Planned changes to the Postcode Index

- 8.1 From **2013_2** provide a combined small and large user file of live postcodes only.
- 8.2 From **2014_1** we are planning a number of changes to the Postcode Index. More details will be available on our website over the next few months but briefly we plan to:
 - Include the current version of a Geography only e.g. CHP and CHP2011 will be dropped, only CHP2012 will be retained.
 - Remove old geographies e.g. 1991 LGD, 1991 LGR etc but a postcode assignment to any geography removed will be available on request.
 - Rename field names e.g. 'Council Area' becomes 'CounciArea2011'. A file converting old label to new label will be available for download.
 - Lookup files will limit information to name and code (a few exceptions apply) and the 9 character code applied in all cases where a 9 character code exists. A master set of lookups will be available to download containing old and new 9 character codes.
 - Provide additional supporting information to help users understand postcodes and how to use the data.

9. Copyright and reproduction

License

Postcode Boundaries and Index – Cut Version

You may use this information (not logos) free of charge in any format or medium under the terms of the Open Government Licence (available on The National archives website).

Users receiving 'Full Version' are liable for a royalty payment to Royal Mail. Please refer any queries to the Geography Customer Services Team, contact details below.

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'Contains NRS data © Crown copyright and database right [year]'.

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10. Enquiries

Please contact our Geography Customer Services Team if you need any further information or queries.

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